AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving, by a computing device, a location request from a requestor for a location associated with the computing device, the location including a plurality of location properties; and

if privacy preferences associated with the requestor have not been specified, the computing device (i) providing a pop-up dialog box that comprises the plurality of location properties in an individually selectable list, and (ii) requesting specification of the privacy preferences associated with each of the plurality of location properties for the requestor from the user, wherein the privacy preferences indicate location ~~information~~ properties to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

if privacy preferences associated with the requestor have been specified,

applying the specified preferences to determine whether to provide the location properties to the requestor.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

preventing a location property from being provided to the requestor if the corresponding privacy preference for the location property specifies that the location property is to be kept private, and

providing the location property to the requestor if the corresponding privacy preference for the location property specifies that the location property is to be disclosed to the requestor.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein providing a pop-up dialog box includes enabling a user to selectively enable and disable privacy for ~~individual~~ each of the plurality of location properties.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

enabling, by a computing device, a user to selectively enable and disable location-aware computing on the computing device;

receiving, by the computing device, a request for one or more location properties from a first requestor of a plurality of requestors, wherein each of the one or more location properties corresponds to a different characteristic of a location of the computing device;

preventing the one or more location properties ~~of the computing device~~ from being provided to [[a]] the first requestor if the user has disabled location-aware computing;

if the user has enabled location-aware computing and if a privacy preference[[s]] has not been specified for ~~associated with~~ each of ~~a plurality of~~ the one or more requested location properties for the first requestor ~~have not been specified~~, requesting specification of the privacy preference for ~~the privacy preferences associated with~~ each of the ~~plurality of~~ one or more location properties not specified for the first requestor from the user ~~for a location associated with the computing device~~, wherein [[the]] each privacy preference[[s]] indicates whether a separate location ~~information~~ property is to be shared with and/or blocked from the first requestor.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein enabling the user to selectively enable and disable location-aware computing includes

providing an option during basic input/output system configuration to enable and disable location-aware computing.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further including

setting a location privacy setting bit in response to the user selectively enabling or disabling location-aware computing.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein setting the location privacy setting bit includes setting a bit in BIOS memory.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further including

~~receiving, by the computing device, a request for the location from the requestor, and~~

querying the location privacy setting bit of the computing device to determine whether location-aware computing is enabled or disabled.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein setting and querying are performed using Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI)-based techniques.

13. (Currently Amended) A machine-accessible medium storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

in response to receiving a request from a requestor for [[a]] one or more location properties, determine whether privacy preferences associated with the requestor have been specified based on a Universal Resource Locator (URL) of the requestor, wherein each of the one or more location properties is associated with a different privacy preference and describes a location in a different degree of detail;

if privacy preferences associated with the URL of the requestor have been specified, applying each privacy preference to determine whether to provide [[a]] the one or more requested location ~~property~~ properties or withhold [[a]] the one or more requested location ~~property~~ properties; and

if privacy preferences associated with the URL of the requestor have not been specified, (i) provide a pop-up dialog box that comprises an individually selectable list of the one or more location properties, and (ii) request [[the]] specification of a privacy ~~preferences~~ preference for ~~associated with~~ each of [[a]] the one or more ~~plurality of~~ location properties provided via the pop-up dialog box for the requestor from the user, wherein the privacy preferences indicate location ~~information~~ properties to be shared with and/or blocked from the ~~user~~ requestor.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 13 further storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

determine whether the machine is enabled for location-aware computing.

17. (Previously Presented) The machine-accessible medium of claim 16 further storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

if the machine is not enabled for location-aware computing, prevent the machine from providing the requested location regardless of whether the privacy preferences have been specified and, if specified, regardless of the contents of the privacy preferences.

18. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

in response to receiving a request for a location from a requestor, determining whether a computing device is enabled for location-aware computing;

if the computing device is enabled for location-aware computing, determining whether ~~privacy preferences associated with~~ a privacy preference has been specified for each location property of a plurality of location properties for the requestor ~~have been specified~~, each location property of the plurality of location properties describing the location of the computing device at a different level of granularity;

if the privacy preference ~~preferences associated with~~ for each location property of the plurality of location properties for the requestor [[have]] has been specified, applying each privacy preference of each location property to determine whether to provide the location property or withhold the location property; and

if the privacy preference ~~preferences associated with~~ for each location property of the plurality of location properties for the requestor [[have]] has not been specified, individually requesting the ~~privacy preferences associated with~~ privacy preference for each of the plurality of location properties not specified for the requestor, wherein [[the]] each privacy preference ~~preferences indicate~~ for each location property of the plurality of location properties indicates particular location information to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein requesting the privacy preferences comprises providing a pop-up dialog box.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein determining whether a computing device is enabled for location-aware computing comprises determining a value stored in a location privacy setting in basic input/output system (BIOS) memory.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

enabling a user to enable and disable location-aware computing through a BIOS configuration routine.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

using WMI/ACPI instrumentation techniques to set and determine the value stored in the location privacy setting.

23. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a bus to communicate information;

a processor coupled to the bus;

an antenna coupled to the bus to receive a signal to indicate a location of the system; and

a machine-accessible storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the system to:

in response to receiving a request for a location associated with the system from a requestor, determine whether privacy preferences associated with a plurality of location properties have been specified for the requestor, wherein each location property of the plurality of location properties describes the location of the system in a different level of specificity;

if the privacy preferences have been specified, apply each privacy preference to determine whether to provide or withhold the requested location property; and

if privacy preferences associated with the plurality of location properties have not been specified for the requestor, provide a pop-up dialog box to request that the privacy preferences be specified, the pop-up dialog box listing each location property of the plurality of location properties in an individually selectable form, and wherein the privacy preferences indicate which location ~~information~~ properties are to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the machine-accessible storage medium further stores instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the system to determine whether the system is enabled for location-aware computing.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the memory includes a basic input/output system (BIOS) memory and wherein determining whether the system is enabled for location-aware computing includes determining a value stored in a location in the BIOS memory.

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the requestor is one of a client application or a location-based service.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving, by a computing device, a query requesting one or more location properties, each location property describing a different aspect of a location;

determining if location aware computing is enabled for the computing device;

if the location aware computing is enabled, then

determining whether user privacy preferences have been specified for a particular requestor;

if user privacy preferences have not been specified for the particular requestor, requesting specification of a user privacy ~~preferences associated with~~ preference for each of the one or more location properties requested, wherein [[the]] each privacy ~~preferences indicate location information~~ preference indicates whether a corresponding location property is to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor;

based on the particular requestor, determining whether privacy is indicated for each of the requested one or more location properties;

for any of the requested one or more location properties in which privacy is not indicated for the particular requestor, obtaining the requested one or more location

properties for which privacy is not indicated and sending the requested one or more location properties for which privacy is not indicated; and

for any of the requested one or more location properties in which privacy is indicated for the particular requestor, blocking the requested one or more location properties for which privacy is indicated.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein requesting user privacy preferences associated with each of the one or more location properties includes providing a pop-up dialog box.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein providing a pop-up dialog box includes enabling a user to selectively enable and disable privacy preferences for each individual location property.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the pop-up dialog box comprises a privacy menu, the privacy menu allows the user to select the privacy preferences for the requestor.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the privacy menu comprises location properties, the location properties including at least one of latitude, longitude, altitude, street address, city, state, postal code, and/or country, and wherein the user may select one, more than one, or none of the location properties for the privacy preferences of the requestor.